

ARKANSAS GAZETTE

Agreement on dioxin proposed

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Parties in lawsuit
submit plan to judge

Three parties to a federal lawsuit against the Vertac Chemical Company have submitted an agreement on incinerating dioxin on the site of a company plant at Jacksonville to Judge Henry Woods.

The parties propose that the agreement be made part of an order that would bind them to a plan worked out earlier for disposal of dioxin-contaminated waste.

No action taken

Judge Woods has taken no action on the proposal, which was signed by Vertac, the state Pollution Control and Ecology Department and the federal Environmental Protection Agency. A hearing on the matter had been set for Monday but was canceled after the parties reached the agreement.

The plan calls for Environmental Systems Company, generally referred to as Ensco, Inc., to burn the toxic chemical in a portable incinerator on the site of the Jacksonville Vertac plant.

Public comment

The proposed agreement was published last week in the *Federal Register* and there will be a 30-day period from the date of publication in which the public may make written comments about the incineration plan.

If the on-site incineration agreement is approved, there will be another period of 60 days for the public to comment on whether the incinerator should be certified to be used in the process, the EPA said.

There will be a public hearing on certification at a date to be set later, according to the EPA.

Only after approval

The EPA said in a press release that the burning would be allowed only if the state and federal agencies approved the disposal plan and certified the incinerator.

The plan for on-site incineration has drawn opposition at Jacksonville, and some opponents are exploring ways to have the waste transported elsewhere for incineration.

Comments may be sent to the Assistant Attorney General, Land and Natural Resources Division, Justice Department, Washington, D.C., 20460.

The disposal plan was developed after a 1982 consent decree bound the parties to develop a plan for getting rid of toxic chemicals found stored on the plant site.

Vertac submitted a plan and the state and federal agencies decided it was feasible earlier this year.

Copies of the plan and the proposed order may be reviewed at the federal court at Little Rock, at the office of the United States attorney at Little Rock, at the Pollution Control and Ecology Department at 8001 National Drive, and at the EPA offices at Washington and Dallas.

Arsenal Cited for Environmental Protection

The Pine Bluff Arsenal has won an environmental protection award given by the Army.

Dewey Spencer, public affairs officer at the Arsenal, said the award was given for top performance among all members of the Army Materiel Command. The command is "kind of the nuts and bolts of the army," and supplies the service with munitions and related equipment. Spencer said.

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The Arsenal was cited for its work in cleaning up dump sites on its property, he said. The sites include pits holding rejected shells made by the Arsenal and waste left behind by commercial firms that once manufactured chemicals at the installation, he said.

A new water-treatment plant, a hazardous-waste landfill and an incinerator for the destruction of 12,000 obsolete nerve agents stored at the Arsenal since the 1960s, were also mentioned as part of its environmental work. Pine Bluff Commercial

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL
AR02L8820707

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Ensco reports rise in income for '85

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Environmental Systems Company of Little Rock has announced that its net income for the fiscal year that ended October 31 was \$5.5 million, or \$1.03 a share, compared with \$1.3 million and 25 cents a share in fiscal 1984.

Revenues for the year were \$57.2 million, compared with \$33.5 million a year ago. Operations in 1984 were adversely affected because the company's main waste disposal facility near El Dorado was shut down for an extended time, the company noted.

The company said fourth quarter income was \$1.5 million this year on revenues of \$18.2 million, compared with net income of \$1 million on revenues of \$9.6 million for the same quarter in 1984.

Environmental Systems disposes of hazardous waste for private industry, utilities and government agencies.

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Command Environmental Quality Awards competition among 65 installations and 107 substations. The Arsenal was officially commended for a noteworthy contribution of protecting and preserving the quality of the environment.

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Pine Bluff Arsenal wins competition

PINE BLUFF — The Pine Bluff Arsenal has been named the first-place winner in the Army Materiel